

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 AID-05 /077 W

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R 030726Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3624

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MPLA AND THE RESIDENCE AGAIN: MPLA THREATENS TO OCCUPY
LUANDA'S EXPATRIATE SCHOOL

1. ON MAY 30 APPROXIMATELY 15 MPLA TROOPS MOVED ONTO THE GROUNDS
OF THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE. SOME TRIED TO ENTER THE HOUSE BUT
WERE SHOED OFF BY AN EMPLOYEE. A CONGEN OFFICER THEN TALKED
WITH THE LOCAL MPLA COMMANDER WHO SAID IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE, THAT
HIS MEN HAD BEEN CONDUCTING A MAP READING EXERCISE, NOT ATTEMPT-
ING TO OCCUPY THE RESIDENCE AND WOULD LEAVE FORTHWITH. THEY DID.

2. ON MAY 29 THE SAME MPLA COMMANDER TOLD THE DIRECTOR OF THE
ENGLISH-AMERICAN SCHOOL (A CO-OP LARGELY OWNED BY CABINDA GULF)
THAT HE WAS TIRED OF THE SCHOOL BOARD STALLING ON MPLA'S DEMAND
TO TAKE OVER THE SCHOOL TO USE AS A BARRACKS AND WOULD SOON "TAKE
IT BY FORCE" (SIC). IN RESPONSE, THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR ARRANGED A
MEETING MAY 30 TO INCLUDE A CONGEN OFFICER. MPLA DIDN'T SHOW.
(IRONICALLY, MPLA PRES. AGOSTINHO NETO'S TWO EXTREMELY BRIGHT
DAUGHTERS THEMSELVES ATTEND THE ENGLISH SCHOOL, NOW LOCATED IN
TOWN.)

3. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER PROMISED MAY 30 TO DO WHAT HE COULD ABOUT
THE SCHOOL HOUSE PROBLEM. (THE FRENCH CONSUL GENERAL, WHOSE
ACCESS TO HIS RESIDENCE IS CONTROLLED BY MPLA, SPENT THE MORNING
OF MAY 30 CAMPED OUTSIDE THE HC'S DOOR. ON SOME NIGHTS OUR
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FRENCH COLLEAGUE MUST BE HOME BY 1830 OR MPLA DOESN'T LET HIM IN.)

4. GIVEN THE RECURRENT SECURITY PROBLEMS AT THE RESIDENCE WE
ARE CONSIDERING LOOKING FOR AN IN-TOWN HOUSE AVAILABLE ON A SHORT
TERM LEASE THAT COULD BE USED UNTIL MATTERS SORT THEMSELVES OUT.
FOR LSO PRETORIA: WE WOULD LIKE YOUR VIEWS ON THE RESIDENCE
SITUATION.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LUANDA00682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750193-0140
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750687/aaaadbco.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MPLA ANDTHE RESIDENCE AGAIN: MPLA THREATENS TO OCCUPY LUANDA'S EXPATRIATE SCHOOL
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE PRETORIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006